

# ABOUT ME - 2022 MARGARET JENNINGS AWARD

## MADELEINE BEER – MONASH UNIVERSITY

### Tell us how you first got involved in the archival profession?



I began studying archaeology and ancient cultures. During my degree, I would spend much of my time going through archives trying to find information on the artefacts I was studying. By the end of my degree, I realised that I liked going through the archives, trying to understand how the information came together. So, I then decided that I wanted to learn more and started a Masters of Information Systems so I could understand it better and I haven't looked back.

### What has surprised you most about the profession?

How many different places you can find archivists. Before I started studying, I figured that you would find archivists working in archives. But they're everywhere. Everywhere people need to organise and keep information you find archivists. There are so many different areas to work in as an archivist, each one bringing different focuses and challenges.

### If you could change one thing about archival practice, what would it be?

I wouldn't change it but make it more obvious to everyone else. Archiving is so much more than filing paper in dusty old boxes. People seem to think that because we are now living in a digital world, archival practises aren't needed anymore when because of all the metadata and information that gets created, those archival practices are needed more than ever.

### What would you tell someone who is thinking about studying in the area?

Go for it! Archiving reaches across such a wide spectrum of life, no matter what other interests you have; history, sport, architecture, you will find that archiving lets you find out so much more about everything you were ever interested in. You can find all the small hidden stories just sitting there quietly waiting to be noticed. At the same time seeing, one record at a time, how a group, a club, a business, or a culture grew and evolved.